

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 01303 122126Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4175
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CAIRO 01303

EXDIS - FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, EG, IS, US
SUBJECT: AGENDA FOR JERUSALEM TALKS

REF: (A) CAIRO 1264, (B) CAIRO 1268, (C) TEL AVIV 546

1. WHEN I RETURNED THIS EVENING FROM IRANIAN AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL RECEPTION, THERE WAS A MESSAGE THAT VP MUBARAK WISHED ME TO CALL. I DID SO. HE HAD HEARD FROM FONMIN KAMEL THAT BEGIN HAS OBJECTED TO OUR FORMULATION AND THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING CANGING IT. HE WANTED US TO KNOW THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH SADAT IN ASWAN AND EGYPTIANS ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT IDEA OF CHANGING OUR FORMULATION. SADAT ASKED THAT WE NOT CHANGE IT. WE SHOULD NOT ALWAYS BOW TO ISRAELI WISHES. THE WHOLE THING REMINDED SADAT OF THE WORKING PAPER EXERCISE.

2. I TOLD MUBARAK THAT BEGIN HAS INDEED REACTED NEGATIVELY TO OUR PROPOSED AGENDA. CONFIRMED THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING WHETHER IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO PRODUCE AN EVEN MORE SIMPLIFIED VERSION, WHICH MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH PARTIES AND ALSO ALLOW EACH PARTY TO TABLE WHATEVER SUBJECTS MIGHT IN ITS VIEW BE REQUIRED. OUR SOLE PURPOSE, I STRESSED, IS TO OVERCOME A STERILE, PROLONGED DEBATE

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ABOUT THE AGENDA AND TO ALLOW THE CONFERENCE, WHEN IT CONVENES, TO COME TO GRIPS IMMEDIATELY WITH SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. WHAT I HAD TOLD SADAT AND HIM YESTERDAY IN ASWAN ABOUT HOW WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE CONFERENCE EVOLVE HAS NOT CHANGED. IT IS SOLELY A QUESTION OF OVERCOMING THE AGENDA HURDLE. MUBARAK SEEMED A BIT REASSURED BY MY REPLY AND, SPEAKING PRIVATELY, SAID THAT IF WE DO

COME UP WITH A SIMPLIFIED REFORMULATION, HE WAS SURE
THE PRESIDENT WOULD WANT TO LOOK AT IT.

3. AGAIN SPEAKING PRIVATELY, MUBARAK SAID SADAT AND HE
HAD BEEN WONDERING WHETHER ANYTHING WILL COME OF THE
JERUSALEM MEETING. WITH THE ISRAELI ATTITUDE, IT SEEMED
HIGHLY UNLIKELY. MUBARAK WANTED ME TO KNOW THAT IF
NOTHING COMES OF THE JERUSALEM TALKS, SADAT IS CONSIDERING
SIMPLY "STOPPING" THE PEACE PROCESS ON THE GROUNDS THAT
ISRAEL IS NOT PREPARED TO ENTER INTO MEANINGFUL TALKS.
HE DID NOT WISH THIS SAID TO THE ISRAELIS, BUT WANTED ME
TO KNOW THAT IN HIS JUDGMENT SADAT IS DEAD SERIOUS ABOUT
IT.

4. SUBSEQUENTLY, FONMIN KAMEL TELEPHONED TO ASK THAT
I MEET WITH HIM AT 1300 TOMORROW TO DISCUSS VARIOUS
OUTSTANDING MATTERS. HE DID NOT SPECIFY, BUT I SUSPECT
THAT THE AGENDA PROBLEM HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT.

5. RE REF C, I BELIEVE WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO DELIVER
KAMEL'S LETTER TO DAYAN JUST AS WE DELIVERED THE DAYAN
LETTER. EILTS

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